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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/705,166	11/01/2000	Zhimin Liu	13854-001001	4721

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EXAMINER

KIANNI, KAVEH C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

- Acknowledgement made of applicant's canceling of claims 11, 18 and 21 stated in the amendment 12/29/2003.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gustafson on 2/12/2004. Mr. Gustafson agreed with Examiner Kianni's request to amend the functional limitations of the claim 1 in order to have the entire case allowable, as follows:

In claim 1:

In 7th line of claim 1, delete [operable],

In 8th line of claim 1, delete [such that when the] and replace it with said second collimating lens focusing ,

In 10th line of claim 1, delete [are focused by the said second collimating lens] and replaced it with to a point where .

Reason for Allowance

2. Claims 1-10, 12-17, and 19-20 are allowed for the following reasons:

The instant application is deemed to be directed to a nonobvious improvement over the invention patented in Pat. No. Podoleanu et al. US 5,975,697. The improvement comprises as follows:

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Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious said phase delay generating means to delay a phase of at least one wavelength of an optical signal present in said input optical signal, the at least one wavelength is suppressed while other wavelengths are transmitted through the output optical fiber in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 2-19 and 12-15 depend on claim 1 and therefore they are also allowed.

Claim 16 is allowed because the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious focusing both the delayed portion and the non-delayed portion of the collimated beams such that at least one wavelength is suppressed while other wavelengths are transmitted in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claim. Claims 17, 19 and 20 depend on claim 16 and therefore they are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

3: Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to K. Cyrus Kianni whose telephone number is (571) 272-2417.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font, can be reached at (571) 272-2415.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Plaza 4, 2021 South Clark Place, Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

K. Cyrus Kianni
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2877


Frank Font
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2877

February 22, 2004